

OIL SPILL RESPONSE DURING WINTER MONTHS AND IN ARCTIC REGIONS

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Abstract:

A new field guide provides practical guidelines for response on land and on water to oil spills in ice and snow conditions. The Field Guide for Oil Spill Response in Arctic Waters is intended for use by circumpolar countries to facilitate oil spill training and response for seas, lakes, rivers, and shorelines. Practical information is presented for technical managers and decision makers, and local community first responders and the general public. The guide has direct application to inland and freshwater spills in North America where ice and snow are part of the seasonal climate cycle.

Three key operational sections can be used independently: (1) a field guide for first responders based on seasonal conditions that focuses on those practical actions that can be taken immediately to control the spread of the oil and to minimize the effects of the spill; (2) response strategies that are described in the context of source control, control of free oil, protection, and shoreline treatment; and (3) response methods for on water, in ice, and shoreline treatment. Support information vital to understanding the winter environment and to the development of an effective response is included in sections on the behavior and fate of spilled oil and the notification and decision processes associated with the management of a response operation.

The presentation initially will outline the contents and format of the Field Guide and in the second part will describe some of the key operational features associated with winter operations on land, on ice, and in snow conditions.